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1. In July 1952 the Soviet Control Commission asked the East Zone Government to describe the Elbe officially as a waterway (Wasserstrasse).
2. In August 1952 the office of waterways construction at Magdeburg received from the state security service a secret order to suspend all river control work on the Elbe where it formed the border of the Federal Republic.
3. On 15 October 1952 in the Ministry of Transport (waterways division) a project was being worked on for the diversion of the Elbe to the Baltic. Geological and technical people were involved.

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